



Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Councilmember

October 14, 2011

Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER III Discretionary Grants

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to support the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER discretionary grant funds for the Montlake Triangle Project in Seattle. This project will provide an important intermodal connection to the tens of thousands of people who commute through a highly congested area to the University of Washington campus and health care facilities each morning.

Over the past several years, the State of Washington, local and regional transit agencies, the City of Seattle, and the University of Washington have partnered together to develop a vision for a future multi-modal node in the area known as the Montlake Triangle. This area is already a key regional destination with local and regional bus lines and the region's most heavily used bike trail connecting the region with the University of Washington campus, its medical center and health care research facilities. In 2016, the Sound Transit Link Light Rail station will open here, bringing with it 26,000 riders a day via a nine-minute train ride from downtown Seattle.

The Montlake Triangle Project integrates several agency projects in the Triangle area focused on accommodating safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle movements, fast and reliable transit service, and enhanced connections between local bus routes, bus rapid transit and light rail service.

The grant meets the objectives set forth in the criteria in the following ways:

- Including a grade-separation for pedestrians and vehicles improves safety and efficiency for pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicles traveling on SR 520 and SR 513.
- Improving transit access through better stop locations and access to light rail supports the efficient flow of people between the critical employment areas of downtown Seattle and downtown Bellevue, and between the University of Washington and employers (e.g. the Microsoft campus), enhancing the economic competitiveness of the region, the State and the nation.

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An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

- Providing a multimodal center with enhanced connections for non-motorized commuters between many destinations and modes improves access and increases non-motorized travel, enhancing our region's sustainability.
- Creating strong partnerships during the development of this concept encourages cross-agency collaboration and creates efficiencies for several public projects in the Montlake Triangle area.

The Montlake Triangle Project represents the culmination of years of close coordination and complex multi-agency partnering to create a truly integrated multimodal center. The Puget Sound region is growing rapidly and this new center will serve tens of thousands of people each day. I strongly support the Montlake Triangle project and its benefits for transit users, local and regional drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians and encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to award this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom M. Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent.

Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Council
Transportation Chair

Cc: Peter Hahn, Seattle Department of Transportation Director
Paula Hammond, Washington State Secretary of Transportation
Dow Constantine, King County Executive
Joni Earl, Sound Transit Director